

Leader:

O God,
you know our desire to do what is right.
You also know our weaknesses
that keep us from doing your will.

Help us to appreciate the treasure
that is our marriage.

Strengthen our commitment to each other,
and teach us to do your will.

Pause

Leader:

Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father, . . . Amen. +

Key Messages of Session Four

Jesus teaches us that we are blessed when we “hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Matthew 5:6). In marriage “doing what is right” begins with honoring the fundamental commitment spouses make to each other on their wedding day. That commitment is the foundation of the marital relationship, which is the couple’s treasure.

This treasure must be cherished and protected. Spouses need to develop boundaries to keep intruders out of the relationship. Most important in protecting their treasure is a couple’s ability to stay connected to each other.

Opening Prayer - Session Four

The **BEATITUDES:** A Couple’s Path to Greater Joy

*Your Marriage
is Your Treasure*

Begin the prayer with the following or similar words.

Leader:

The theme for this session is that
our marriage is our treasure.

Let us quiet our minds and open our hearts
and take a moment to remind ourselves
that we are in God’s presence.

Pause

+ In the name of the Father . . .

**All: We thank you, O God, for all the gifts
you have given us this day.
We thank you especially for our spouse
and for the gift that we are to each other.**

**As we prepare to enjoy this time together
we ask you to help us be aware of your
presence in our lives,
and help us to listen to your voice.**

Leader: *Reflection*

On our wedding day
we knew that our marriage
was our treasure
and our hearts were full of joy.

Treasures are to be cherished and protected.

Jesus said:

“Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness.”

For us, as married couples,
doing what is right begins
with honoring the promises
we made on our wedding day.
We do so by strengthening
our intimate connection.

With God’s help our marriage
becomes a shining treasure
that is the source of richness
for our family
and our community.

Pause

Leader:

Let us pray together Psalm 143.

**All: Hear my prayer, O Lord;
give ear to my supplications
in your faithfulness;
answer me in your righteousness.**

**Do not enter into judgment
with your servant,
for no one living
is righteous before you.**

**Let me hear of your steadfast
love in the morning,
for in you I put my trust.
Teach me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.**

**Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.
Let your good spirit lead me
on a level path.**

Psalm 143:1-2; 8, 10

Pause